

House Resolution 1108

By: Representatives Jacobs of the 80th, Millar of the 79th, Chambers of the 81st, Rice of the 51st, Geisinger of the 48th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the life of Joe Burton and dedicating a road in his memory; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Joe Burton was a compassionate conservative long before the term splashed
4 across the popular vernacular; and

5 WHEREAS, an Atlanta native, he graduated from Commercial High and, in 1942, he enlisted
6 in the United States Air Force and served as a combat navigator who flew 67 World War II
7 missions; and

8 WHEREAS, after the war, he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial management at Georgia
9 Tech before being called back to the Air Force during the Korean War; and

10 WHEREAS, when he returned home, he held various sales positions before forming Joe
11 Burton Co. — a building specialty sales company — in 1963; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1972, Senator Burton was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives
13 where he served for ten years, and in 1982, voters sent him to the Georgia Senate where he
14 served for 20 years; and

15 WHEREAS, he devoted his legislative career to helping special needs children and the
16 mentally and physically disabled; and

17 WHEREAS, he led a Senate study that dealt with the education of special needs preschoolers
18 which eventually led to federal legislation that required states to address the issue; and

19 WHEREAS, he was also responsible for a law that required educators be trained to identify
20 special needs students; and

21 WHEREAS, when not engaged in business or legislative pursuits, you could often find him
22 ringing the Salvation Army bell at Northlake Mall where he also scheduled volunteers to
23 work, and if they did not show up for a shift, he filled in; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Burton also gave to others by generously donating blood whenever he
25 could and by supporting charities like the United Way and the American Red Cross and
26 serving on advisory boards including the Salvation Army and Friends of Disabled Adults and
27 Children; and

28 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and appropriate that a permanent memorial to the life and
29 service of Joe Burton be established by dedicating a road in his memory.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
31 GEORGIA that the members of this body express their sincerest condolences to the family
32 and friends of Joe Burton upon his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portion of Lavista Road, SR 236, from Briarlake Road
34 to Clairmont Road be dedicated as the Joe Burton Memorial Highway.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
36 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Joe Burton Memorial
37 Highway.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Joe Burton and
40 the Department of Transportation.